RELATIONS OF DISEASES OF THE EYE TO GENERAL DISEASES. By MAX KNIES, M.D. Forming a Supplementary Volume to Every Manual and Text-book of Practical Medicine and Ophthalmology. Edited by HENRY D. NOYES, A.M., M.D. New York: William Wood & Co., 1895.

DR. NOYES, to quote his own words, "in presenting this treatise of Professor Knies in an English dress, has given a book whose quality is to a great degree unique, a larger field of usefulness." There is no doubt that English-speaking ophthalmologists will appreciate his unselfish task, because, although Dr. Noyes has not himself performed the labor of translation, he has carefully compared the pages with the original, and while he has not added many personal observations, those which are included distinctly increase the value of the work.

The book comprises nine chapters, opening with one on diseases of the nervous system, which includes the anatomical course of the nerves of the eye, the disorders in the domain of the ocular nerves and their central origin, the relation between the bloodvessels and the eye, the relation between the eye and the lymphatics, and, finally, the individual diseases of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves. These subheadings give some idea of the scope of this chapter, which is *facile princeps* of the entire work. Indeed, in order to approach this book in a proper spirit one must, like the author, have made it a favorite study to trace the relationship between the disease of the eye and the disease of the rest of the body, particularly the relationship which exists between ophthalmology and neurology.

A notable feature in the opening chapter is the care with which the researches, often contradictory, pertaining to the anatomical course of the nerves of the eyes, the nerve nuclei of the motor and sensory cerebral nerves, and the regions of cortical visual impressions have been studied and analyzed.

The arrangement of the system of fibres in the chiasm which is given corresponds in the main with the investigations of Gudden, and although Michel's theory of total decussation is mentioned it is not commended. Knies follows Perlia's description of the nucleus of the oculomotor. In the section devoted to the cortical disorders of vision Henschen's recent monograph could not be utilized, but Dr. Noyes has supplied this deficiency in several brief notes. There is an excellent exposition of hemianopsia and the lesions which cause this defect of vision, full consideration being given to the rarer types of half-vision as well as half-color-vision—hemiachromatopsia—and of homonymous hemiopic hallucinations, and to the relation of these phenomena to the localization of intracranial disease.

Touching the question of nomenclature, the following paragraph is interesting:

> "It would be advisable to employ special technical expressions for the different kinds of central and peripheral visual disorders. I would recommend that amblyopia and amaurosis be used solely for peripheral (and the rare intermediate) disorders, and the words terminating in "opsia" for central disorders of vision. In the former the light-reflexes of the pupil are also disturbed, and atrophic changes in the nerve, which are visible with the ophthalmoscope, usually occur sooner or later; in the other forms this is not true. The visual disorders of the tractus and those which are located in the

chiasm would then be called hemiamaurosis and hemiamblyopia (homonymous, binasal, bitemporal, incomplete, symmetrical). Hemianopsia would be reserved for central half-blindness and would always be homonymous. Anopsia would mean central blindness (cortical blindness), and the term miopsia (= seeing less) could be introduced for central diminution of vision. Hemimiopsia would then mean those cortical homonymous disorders of vision which do not amount to complete hemianopsia."

Disorders of the voluntary ocular muscles, the transcortical disorders of vision, and word-blindness, alexia, dyslexia, paralexia, agraphia; in fact, all the important clinical forms of what Knies calls the optical disorders of speech are amply considered.

There is a good description of the anomalies of the iris-movements, and the abnormalities in the size of the pupil of central character are considered in four divisions, namely, paralytic cerebral mydriasis (paralysis of the sphincter); spastic cerebral myosis (spasm of the sphincter); paralytic spinal myosis (paralysis of the dilator); and spastic spinal mydriasis (spasm of the dilator). The latter form is made to include dilatation of the pupil after cutaneous irritation.

Succeeding the pure anatomical and physiological considerations of the first chapter, which comprise more than one hundred pages, are the paragraphs devoted to the consideration of the individual diseases of the brain, cord, and nerves.

The remainder of the book is taken up with diseases of the skin, and of the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, urinary, and sexual organs. Then follows an excellent chapter on poisons and infectious diseases, and the book closes with a consideration of the constitutional diseases and their relation to the eye.

Everywhere one is struck with the enormous amount of literature that has been reviewed in the preparation of this treatise, but is impressed somewhat unfavorably with the numerous second-hand references, the constant appearance of "Jahr. f. Aug.," indicating that the author has not always gone to the fountain-head for his information. In not a few instances this neglect has led him into error. American literature has been utilized to some extent, but not by any means as much as it deserves, and almost always through the medium of German abstracts. To a certain extent the same criticism applies to the English ophthalmic literature.

A very interesting chapter, before referred to, is the one devoted to poisons. It contains in many respects the best account extant of the toxic amblyopias, in the widest acceptation of this term. To be sure, the account is brief, but the salient points of this important topic have been included.

Knies commits the great sin of failing to attribute epilepsy, Sydenham's chorea, and gastric disturbances to the influence of eye-strain, although, so far as chorea is concerned, he does not forget to mention it. We trust he may pardoned, if for no other reason, at least for the sake of the admirable construction of his first chapter. It is to be regretted, however, that he did not include a chapter on the relation of eye-strain to general disorders, or, at least, its relation to various disturbances of functions—a relation which abundant clinical evidence proves is a potent one. It is still more to be regretted that Dr. Noyes did not find time to add a chapter of this character, for no one better than he could have treated this subject with judicial fairness, aided by abundant experience.

The index is wretched—a very serious fault—and sometimes one is obliged to read many pages, and even then unsuccessfully, before coming upon the desired topic, which should have been found at once by reference to a proper index. The translator has evidently followed the original exactly in this respect, but the value of the English translation would have been greatly increased had Dr. Noyes permitted the addition of an index as thorough and copious as the one in his own excellent treatise on disease of the eye. Not without faults—and what book is so fortunate?—this treatise of Professor Knies is a monument of industry—a truly scientific work, and amply sustains its author's assertion that it forms a supplementary volume to every manual and text-book of practical medicine and ophthalmology. G. E. DE S.

ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF MEDICINE, BIOLOGY, AND ALLIED SCIENCES. By GEORGE M. GOULD, A.M., M.D. 1633 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1894.

MEDICAL literature was enriched during the past year by the completion of Foster's splendid work, by the new and revised edition of Dunglison, by Duane's excellent work, and with the volume under consideration. The first two were well known to the profession; the former through its early volumes and the latter through many years of distinguished and acceptable merit. Gould's *Dictionary* had been preceded by his smaller works, which had proved most useful to medical students. The present book was adapted for the profession at large, and was completed with an endeavor to give the greatest possible amount of clear and condensed information in a single volume.

We have subjected this book to the test of daily use for more than a year. Our requirements have embraced the knowledge usually desired by practitioners, and important references demanded by especial study and scientific work, and in the literature of a specialty. The book has been to us all that the writer claims, the greatest amount of condensed information readily contained within a single volume. There are various points upon spelling and the definition of terms used in the literature of specialties in which we do not agree with the work of the author, but this does not militate against the value of the book, nor lessen the debt of obligation to which the profession has been placed by the writer.

The publisher informs us that a second edition is in preparation, and this will certainly be welcome in view of the merit of the first.

The publisher's work upon this book, so far as printing and binding go, has been well and clearly done. Most of the illustrations are excellent, and the exceptions are too few to affect essentially the value of the book. The work compares most favorably with the best medical dictionaries of other languages. E. P. D.